



Service-Learning Teacher Fellows Program Overview

The Michigan Community Service Commission is pleased to announce the launch of the Service-Learning Teacher Fellows program. With support from State Farm Insurance Companies, the program will promote excellence in service-learning and provide peer leadership to the field in Michigan and throughout the nation.

The Service-Learning Teacher Fellows will be a corps of experienced teachers who run exemplary service-learning projects and who are willing and able to share their expertise and enthusiasm with their peers. The Fellows will be respected members of their school district's service-learning team. They will mentor and train teachers and administrators in effective service-learning practices and promote the use of service-learning as an effective teaching tool. In the inaugural year, the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) will select ten Fellows to participate.

Annually, the Fellows will receive a cash award in the amount of \$500, ongoing leadership training, and invitations to participate in a variety of Fellows activities. In exchange, the Fellows will make a two-year commitment to contribute to the promotion and development of service-learning at the local, state, and national levels. Each Fellow will also complete the required activities outlined below.

Potential Fellows will apply through a competitive process managed by the MCSC. Applicants not selected will not receive financial awards, however, they will be invited to attend some of the Fellows activities.

Annual Program Outcomes

Outcome 1: Each Fellow will participate in activities hosted by the MCSC designed to promote professional development as a service-learning expert.

- Attend annual gathering of Fellows (required).
- Participate in one state or national service-learning training opportunity (required).
- Engage in quarterly meeting or conference call to strengthen practice, reflect on experiences, and share learning with other Fellows and peers (required).

Outcome 2: Each Fellow will serve as a resource to their local service-learning team.

- Use service-learning as a teaching strategy and consistently utilize the Eleven Essential Elements of Effective Service-Learning (required).
- Work in partnership with local school district's service-learning coordinator to promote the expansion of service-learning with the district. (required).
- Participate as a presenter in two events per year on a topic related to service-learning in their school, county, and other counties (required).
- Write a minimum of one service-learning lesson plan or project for their district (required).
- Serve on the local service-learning advisory board (recommended).

- Host visitors from in and out of state who want to observe exemplary service-learning practices (recommended).
- Collaborate with local higher education institutions to integrate service-learning into pre-service and in-service teacher education programs (recommended).

Outcome 3: Each Fellow will generate two positive media events or articles that are published in local, state, or national outlets each year.

- Generate two positive media events or articles (required). For example, have media and local elected officials attend service-learning events, publish articles, etc).
- Write/collaborate on service-learning articles to enhance the field (recommended).

Outcome 4: Each Fellow will mentor two teachers or one teacher team and create resources to support other teachers.

- Act as a consultant and provide technical assistance to at least two other teachers or one teacher team as they develop service-learning lesson plans or projects (required).
- Replicate exemplary service-learning projects or lesson plans by working with other teachers to help them develop their own lesson plans or projects (recommended).

Applicants

Individuals selected as Fellows will:

- ☒ Have received some training in service-learning.
- ☒ Have leadership experience.
- ☒ Be a classroom teacher in a Michigan public school.
- ☒ Have implemented a service-learning project that conforms to the Eleven Essential Elements of Effective Service-Learning (see attached).
- ☒ Be interested in growing professionally.
- ☒ Be nominated by their local school district and have a commitment from them to support their participation with four days of release time.
- ☒ Commit to participating in the orientation and training.
- ☒ Make a two-year commitment.

Service-Learning Teacher Fellows Application Process

A completed application packet includes:

- 1) Application Cover Sheet (see page 5)
- 2) Application Narrative
- 3) Letters of recommendation (2)

All applications must be typed.

Completed application packets must be received in the Michigan Community Service Commission office by **Monday, May 9, 2005**. Fax and electronic submissions will not be accepted. Submit completed application packets to:

Tara Gilman
Michigan Community Service Commission
1048 Pierpont, Suite 4
Lansing, Michigan 48913
Phone: (517) 241-2553

A panel of service-learning experts will review all applications and the selected individuals will be notified by May 25, 2005.

Teacher Fellows Application Narrative

Please answer all of the Narrative Questions listed below. Limit your responses to a total of five single-sided pages, double-spaced in 12-point font with 1-inch margins.

Narrative Questions

1. Describe your most memorable experience engaging your students in service-learning. Answer the following questions related to the *Eleven Essential Elements of Effective Service-Learning* in relationship to your project.
 - What need did your students meet in the community?
 - What curricular objectives did the students meet through service-learning?
 - How did your students reflect throughout the service-learning experience?
 - How was youth voice incorporated into your project?
 - What community partnerships did you and your students establish?
 - How did you plan for the service-learning project?
 - How did you prepare students for their service-learning experience?
2. Write a brief statement regarding your leadership experience (training colleagues, writing articles, etc.) and your professional aspirations.

3. Describe what you see as the academic and personal benefits derived by students when they engage in service-learning.
4. What is your personal motivation for being a Michigan Service-Learning Teacher Fellow?

Letters of Recommendation

Please submit two letters of recommendation from any two of the following:

- A student who was in your class within the last two years
- A colleague who has seen you teach
- A principal or superintendent
- A parent who is familiar with your service-learning projects

The letters of recommendation should address your teaching style, service-learning qualifications, and leadership abilities. Letters of recommendation should be submitted with the application. However, they may be sent separately via **fax only** to Tara Gilman at (517) 373-4977. All letters of recommendation must be received by **May 9, 2005**

Learn and Serve - Michigan Service-Learning Teacher Fellow Application Cover Sheet

Name:

School Name:

School Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

School Phone: *(include area code)*

School Fax: *(include area code)*

E-Mail:

School District:

Subjects Taught:

Grade Level(s):

Home Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Home Phone: *(include area code)*

Home Fax: *(include area code)*

E-Mail: